

High School Sample Test Prompt

Ideas and Content

Adults have influence on young people's lives. Think about the qualities demonstrated by adults that you admire.

Write an essay explaining the most important qualities demonstrated by adults that you admire.

Your essay should include:

- An introduction, body, and conclusion.
- An explanation of the qualities.
- Specific, appropriate details.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

IDEAS and CONTENT

<p>6</p> <p>The writing is exceptionally clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader's attention throughout. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support and rich details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support • a thorough, balanced, in-depth explanation/ exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well suited to audience and purpose. 	<p>5</p> <p>The writing is clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader's attention. Main ideas stand out and are developed by supporting details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity, focus, and control. • main idea(s) that stand out. • supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support. • a thorough, balanced explanation/exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights. • content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose. 	<p>4</p> <p>The writing is clear and focused. The reader can easily understand the main ideas. Support is present, although it may be limited or rather general. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an easily identifiable purpose. • clear main idea(s) • supporting details that are relevant, but may be overly general or limited in places; when appropriate, resources are used to provide accurate support. • a topic that is explored/explained, although developmental details may occasionally be out of balance with the main idea(s); some connections and insights may be present. • content and selected details that are relevant, but perhaps not consistently well chosen for audience and purpose. 	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">APPENDIX B – Official Scoring Guide for AIMS Writing</p>
<p>3</p> <p>The reader can understand the main ideas, although they may be overly broad or simplistic, and the results may not be effective. Supporting detail is often limited, unsubstantial, overly general, or occasionally slightly off-topic. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an easily identifiable purpose and main idea(s). • predictable or overly-obvious main ideas or plot; conclusions or main points seem to echo observations heard elsewhere. • support that is attempted; but developmental details that are often limited in scope, uneven, somewhat off-topic, predictable, or overly general. • details that may not be well-grounded in credible resources; they may be based on clichés, stereotypes or questionable sources of information. • difficulties when moving from general observations to specifics. 	<p>2</p> <p>Main ideas and purpose are somewhat unclear or development is attempted but minimal. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a purpose and main idea(s) that may require extensive inferences by the reader. • minimal development; insufficient details. • irrelevant details that clutter the text. • Extensive repetition of detail. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing lacks a central idea or purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideas that are extremely limited or simply unclear. • attempts at development that are minimal or non-existent; the paper is too short to demonstrate the development of an idea. 	

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Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

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I think that the most important qualities that adults have are the ones they have already taught us. The main area where you learn your qualities are from the people you love the most, your family. Your family teaches you many new things day in and day out but the most important thing they teach you is to ~~to~~ love one and other.

Score Point 1 – Writing lacks a central idea or purpose. The paper is too short to demonstrate the development of an idea. Paper offers only vague ideas (“main ones”; “new things”) without any explanation.

Writing

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Adults have influence on young people's lives. I look up to one of the famous actors, Jim Carry. I look up to him because I want to be an actress. I want to be funny like him. I've always liked Jim Carry because he is a good role model for some people like me.

I'm the type of person that is strong, I understand, I'm also a fair person. The one teacher I look up to for me to be this way is Mrs. . She is tough, she's fair, she teaches well, and she understands how people feel. Mrs. is not afraid to express her feelings. Whatever is on her mind she is not afraid to say. That's what makes me look up to her.

Overall, adults have influence on young people's lives. Being fair, understanding, and having humor are all important traits for me.

Score Point 2 – Main idea and purpose are somewhat clear, but development is minimal. This paper has insufficient details for support. Writer offers two role models but fails to describe their qualities with details.

Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Johnny Tsunami, Moms, Dads, Aunts, uncles, Grandmas, and Grandpas, all these things have one thing in common: they are admired by young and old ones. Many people have different definitions to what admired means. Admired means to be respected and trustworthy, a person who is looked up to.

A person who is admired has many qualities, one is that that person needs to be respected by all. No one wants to admire a person that doesn't get respect or is picked on continually and doesn't stand up for themselves. They want someone who walks in and everyone says hi and buys them drinks.

Another quality would be is heroic, people want to admire someone who is going to do the right, or most heroic thing when worse comes to worse. A heroic thing would be like taking a bullet for someone, running into a fiery building to save someone, or simply taking care of you.

The last quality an admired person must possess is trustworthiness. Every one wants the person they admire to be able to keep deep dark secrets that are told. Also they want trustworthiness

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so they know that person will stick up for them and know they will never stop being your friend.

Being admired is a big responsibility because if you're admired you're setting the example for the admiree, and the admiree will want to be just like who they admire. So if the admired has these three qualities then they will be a good influence on young ones.

Score Point 3 – The reader can understand the main ideas, but they are addressed in a simplistic manner. The supporting details are often clichéd and overly dramatic, drawing away from the topic. Overused clichés such as “worse comes to worse” and “deep, dark secrets” detract from the paper’s content. Conclusions or main points seem to echo observations heard elsewhere.

Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Why do young people look up to adults? Maybe because the adults are older and believed to be wiser. Or maybe it's because of all the hard work and sacrifice they make for their children. The good example that adults have been for the younger people of this world has been very influential also. So what kind of things do these older beings do that catches the young eye so often?

First of all, that load of hard work that they take on really shows. For example, they go to work everyday just to support their families. They know how important it is that their family have food and clothes and take on the task of providing these essentials. Although these parents may not want to work or do a certain job, they do it anyway, all for their family.

Parents of children also have to sacrifice a lot of things to ensure their family's happiness. Time and money are just two of these sacrifices made for their families. All the driving children around and buying things consumes a lot of these. Giving up things that the parents might want for themselves is something that must frequently happen also. And although it may not seem like it, the young ones really do notice this and admire it. Children know that their parents would sacrifice practically anything for their children.

Also, the adults that are a good example are looked up to very often. Those that are kind and loving inspire the young hearts to be the same. Parents have been such a comfort and help to so many children,

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that those comforted see their parents as a haven from the cold, cruel world. In little deeds that adults do, the young people see the good intention and thank it.

These are the reasons why the young people of this world admire their parents and adults around them. Parents have so often made such a great impact on their children's lives by every little thing they do that those children want to grow up to obtain those same attributes. So what kinds of choices are the parents of this world making?

Score Point 4 – Writing is clear. Support is present, although it may be limited or rather general. While details are relevant, the development lacks depth. The reader can easily understand the main ideas. The writer offers ideas and support but does not include specific, identifiable information. The parents have no face; they are generic.

Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Many people have influenced my life, one way or another. Some people have shown me what life is all about or what laughter can do for others. My Mother, grandmother, and uncle have shown me more about life than any other people in my life.

My mother, _____, has shown me what strength is. She has raised seven kids on her own since she was about sixteen years old. She was in bad situations, but always found a way to keep our heads above the waters. I think this shows strength.

She has also shown me what love is all about. That there are different kinds of love. Love that could be good, great, long lasting, and some that are very special. She told me love is made for everyone, but some people are afraid of love, itself. So they hide themselves from others.

My grandmother has one quality that I admire. Caring. She has reflected a lot of care after my mother had passed away. She took us in as her own kids. She is still taking very good care of us in every way she can.

Thoughtful things my grandmother does also - is a good quality she has. She would do tiny things

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that would inspire me to do the same for others. Like for an example, everytime she goes to Farmington or Cortez, she would bring back something for us. Such as chips, soda, cd's, new clothing, and toys for my little brothers and sisters.

My uncle has also shown responsibility, care, and thoughtful things to do. It surprises me when he senses my loneliness all the time. He asks me if I am alright. If there is anything I want to talk about, or how he can help.

Sometimes when I am just bored, he asks me if I want to go somewhere that is quiet or isolated. While we are away, he doesn't do anything that might offend my grandmother. He wouldn't do irresponsible.

In conclusion, I hope my family and many other families out there have qualities that they can teach each other. Qualities that are good and helpful. Qualities that would last a lifetime and many more lifetimes to come.

Score Point 5 – Main ideas stand out and are developed by supporting details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing makes connections and shares insight. Ideas are expressed with a comfortable flow. The writing evokes a sense of ownership. The writer offers specific examples of why mother, grandfather, and uncle are influential.

Writing**15A****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

A wise man once said, "The future lies in the hands of our children, but it is our duty as parents to ready them for the burden." It is unquestionable that the students of today will be the masters of the world tomorrow, but it seems impossible that these students of seeming immaturity could possibly come to be emotionally strong enough to bear the burdens that are seen in every day adult life. There is only one way that any child sitting in any classroom across America can become emotionally strong enough for these trials and tribulations; that one way is through the example set by parental figures that surround the child. These parental figures must show children their personality traits that allow them to live through their everyday, hectic lives. As a whole, adults who are respected by children share many similar personality traits, and it is for these traits they are respected so. All adults that I admire in my life share the traits of compassion and respect, and it is because of these traits that I have come to see them in a new light.

All adults I have respect for show compassion to others. My grandfather, _____, shows this compassion through his work with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. It is with the help of this organization that my grandfather donates sixty plus hours a week to helping the poor. When asked why he simply states, "Because they need help, and I can give it." It is because of this sense of compassion that I respect my grandfather, and it is probably through him that my father learned this same value of compassion. Many long hours has my father spent at work, but he always finds time for my sister and I, no matter what the cause. He has shown

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me that time spent with your family is more important than a few dollars on a paycheck. I can only hope that I can come to show compassion in my adult life as these two men do.

Another prevalent trait in all adults I cherish is their respect for all people, whatever age they may be. I believe my scoutmaster _____ best personifies this trait. In the past four years I have hiked four-hundred plus miles with him, and never once have I ever felt that he did not listen to and respect my opinion. Another person who shows this characteristic with great success is Mr. _____, my English teacher. He says often, "I know you can do it. Just go out on the limb, the worst that happens is you fall." These two people have allowed me to grow undoubtedly by letting me express my opinion, and giving me respect for it.

Adults through out the world are convinced children of today have a lack of respect. They are wrong. If they show compassion and respect in all they do even the worst teenagers will come to enjoy their company. The only way students can become prepared for the "real world" is by learning from these adults. It is by showing these traits adults can prepare us to take the world on our shoulders.

Score Point 6 – Paper holds the reader's attention throughout. It is exceptionally clear, focused, and interesting. Supporting details add to the paper's depth. Rich details are suitable to audience and purpose. The writer has effectively described grandfather, scout master, and teacher without becoming too personal and still provides a clear image of how they serve as role models.